

bill provides an additional option on the menu, allowing the United States to provide assistance that may otherwise be unfeasible unless we could retain end use. This legislation authorizes the President to enter into lend-lease agreements directly with Ukraine and provide the military equipment necessary to protect the Ukrainian people.

My hope is that this will send another message to Vladimir Putin that not only do you need to consider the statements and actions of the executive branch but that you also need to look at the bipartisan support that Ukraine is getting in the U.S. Congress—tangible support—in terms of weapons they can use to deter and, if not to deter, to defeat Russian aggression. Russia must know that an invasion would be met with steel and not mush. If Russian troops make the decision to move forward, Ukrainian forces would have the lethal weapons needed to defend their sovereignty. I am proud of the fact that this effort does have such strong bipartisan support, and I hope more of our colleagues will join us in this legislation.

This is one important way we can send a message to our friends and allies around the world that you are not alone, that America can be trusted, that our commitments are credible and they will be met not just with words but with action.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman MENENDEZ of the Foreign Relations Committee and Ranking Member RISCH, I have been proud to work with this bipartisan group of colleagues to discuss not just this lend-lease legislation but a more comprehensive approach to counter Russian aggression. We have discussed the lend-lease bill, as well as additional security assistance and lethal aid for Ukraine.

The group is currently crafting a package of targeted sanctions, as well, meant to deter Russia from invading. It includes limited but immediate sanctions in response to ongoing aggression and, in particular, cyber attacks, which were a new domain unknown in World War II but which are very real in 2022.

Russia cannot operate under the illusion that it will only receive a slap on the hand for invading Ukraine. I will leave it to the chairman and ranking member to make announcements about this legislation, but suffice it to say that I am encouraged that bipartisan progress is being made.

We agree on the outlines of what is being discussed, and we are committed to striking a deal as quickly as possible because time is of the essence. Nobody knows, except Vladimir Putin, when he will order the invasion of Ukraine. But make no mistake, America stands with Ukraine, and we will do everything we can to help them defend themselves against an invasion by the Russian Federation.

This is not just a Ukraine problem. This is not just a Europe problem or a

NATO problem. The potential for escalation makes this a global security problem. Russia didn't stop after Georgia or Crimea, and it likely will not stop after Ukraine.

We are confronting the scope of Russia's power and influence on the global stage, and America's leadership, as always, is absolutely crucial.

The United States has a responsibility to promote peace and security around the world. If Russia invades Ukraine and America does nothing, we show the world that our position can't be trusted, that our promises to our allies are not credible, and we also show that we will sacrifice the lives and the treasure of freedom-loving countries like Ukraine to the biggest bully on the continent.

A shifting global order would send a signal to other countries, as well—not just in Europe but around the world, in places like China and Iran—that all bets are off. They may be incentivized to mount similar pressure campaigns and not fear retaliation by the United States and our allies. If that were to happen, America would no longer be the global superpower. We would suddenly become a regional power with mere aspirations and no global reach.

Make no mistake, an attack on Ukraine is also an attack on America's global security interests and on world peace and could have cascading consequences that right now are too horrible to contemplate.

This is an existential threat to our leadership in the world and to the global order we underwrite and to our way of life and the way of life for freedom-loving democracies around the world. A Russian invasion of Ukraine is far more existential than a mere isolated and faraway quarrel.

I appreciate the hard work of Senators on both sides of the aisle to develop this response—this strong response—to Russia's threatened aggression. We need to do our part to ensure that, when Russia probes with bayonets, it shall be met with steel.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER AUSTEN JOYNER

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, occasionally, Members are given the opportunity for a point of personal privilege. This is mine today. Today, I rise to speak in tribute to Christopher Austen Joyner, my most trusted adviser for the last 24 years.

This week, Chris will retire from a 22-year career working in public service, most of them supporting me in some capacity.

Twenty-two years is a long time. In Hill terminology, that translates to

three terms in the House, followed by almost three terms in the U.S. Senate. And in Chris's case, it includes participation in almost every one of my campaigns since 1998. To say that I will miss our partnership is an understatement.

Joyner's love of country, his dedication to serve, his ability to bring out the best in staff and in me have been a true gift for the last two decades.

Chris, I hope you will enjoy a well-earned retirement; that you can head out to the coast; that you can have a few laughs with your wife, Amanda, your kids, Liz and Andrew; that you can enjoy some more baseball games, whether that is coaching Andrew's Little League team or sitting at Nats Park; and that you can properly reflect on your poor decision to get a pandemic puppy. From now on, I hope that there will only be one Monday per week, and, in addition to lunch, you occasionally get dinner. I expect to see you here, though, for the occasional breakfast burrito.

Like so many young staffers, Chris started his Hill career as an intern at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1996. In the spring of 1998, Alicia Clark, my then-chief of staff, brought Chris to my House office as a legislative assistant. Chris worked in my House office from 1998 to 2005, involved in almost every issue that came through our doors: foreign policy, defense, oversight, trade, tax, ag. In my House office, I could always count on Chris to be committed, prepared, and willing to work within the conference and across the aisle to get things done for the American people.

One of Chris's proudest accomplishments during those years was his work with a bipartisan group of House staffers to draft legislation that ultimately became the tobacco quota buyout. Of course, I think his most noticeable accomplishment there in those years was to meet and marry the love of his life, Amanda, who has been patient over the years with long nights, nonexistent weekends, and staffdels that produced laundry smelling like jet fuel and explosives.

Chris rose through the office ranks to become policy director, and he joined my Senate office in 2005. In the spring of 2006, after 8 years on Team Burr, Chris went looking for new challenges and briefly worked as a Washington rep for the American Petroleum Institute.

Thankfully, he wasn't gone too long, and, in 2008, Chris agreed to come back to my Senate office as chief of staff. As my chief, Chris hired and mentored my staff both here and in North Carolina and provided me invaluable counsel on a host of issues facing the American people. Whatever the problem, Chris always brought the best options to the table, occasionally with some good bourbon, and provided the best advice, even if I didn't always agree.

When I took over as chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in January 2015, I knew that

Chris would bring his keen intellect, good judgment, and steady leadership to the staff director role. Although Chris had never worked in the intelligence community, I knew that he had the right balance of respect for the intelligence community's mission and commitment to the Senate's important oversight role.

Chris dove into this role head first, learning everything he could about the intelligence community, becoming a champion of its missions and of its workforce. He traveled the world in pursuit of ground truth, joining me on trips to war zones, crisis hotspots, and training locations to show the intelligence community our support; traveling via trains, planes, armored cars, helicopters, and, occasionally, souped-up golf carts. Chris knew the value of an in-person thank-you to our people in harm's way and the importance of a surprise stop to ensure that the reality on the ground was described back in Washington in the same way.

Chris's bipartisanship and his supportive leadership style served him well during his time on the Intel Committee. Thankfully, he also kept his sense of humor and his penchant for movie quotes and exactly the right GIF.

As staff director during the SSCI's Russia investigation, Chris led a bipartisan team of staffers on an almost 4-year-long effort to uncover foreign interference in the 2016 election. Although we had some heated moments and a lot of drama, Chris never wavered from the mission that Senator WARNER and I had given the staff: to follow the facts wherever they led.

Chris's leadership style is not flashy, and his quiet support for the SSCI staff and his devotion to the IC mission kept the committee focused on its essential oversight mission throughout a high-profile investigation in the beginning of the pandemic.

Clearly, Chris could not get enough of this important mission, and for the last 2 years, Chris has served as the senior adviser on the committee, continuing the committee's efforts to focus the intelligence community on critical work exposing malign foreign influence. His work is clearly rated AAA.

Chris, I am proud of you. I am so thankful to you, and I hope you know how much your service has meant to all of us and especially to me. You have been a voice of common sense in a divisive time, a steady hand through good times and bad times, and a champion of the legislative branch. Our Nation is safer, our intelligence community is sharper, and this institution is stronger because of you. Thank you for dedicating your life and service to your Nation and thank you for your dedication to me. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to have you by my side on this journey. We wish you well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture cloture time has expired.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER AUSTEN JOYNER

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I apologize to my good friend the Senator from North Carolina for being a bit late. I have never seen him be this timely and this brief in his comments.

But I wanted to take a moment to echo what I know he said about Chris Joyner, who has served with enormous distinction for Senator BURR in both his personal office and on the Intelligence Committee. I want to particularly recognize Chris and my staff director, Mike Casey, who managed to work together and, frankly, negotiate a peace treaty between Senator BURR and me. When we started the Russia investigation, we had a few bumps.

But, as I am sure Senator BURR has pointed out, Chris served with enormous distinction in a very, very challenging time, putting together an investigation that came with integrity, truthfulness, and bipartisanship in a period—particularly under the previous administration—where those milestones were not often highly regarded.

Chris has decided to move forward in his career, and I simply want to join and echo Senator BURR's comments about his commitment and service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I appreciate the courtesy of an extra couple of minutes.

VOTE ON BRENNAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brennan nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Coons	Hirono
Bennet	Cornyn	Kaine
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Booker	Duckworth	King
Brown	Durbin	Klobuchar
Burr	Feinstein	Leahy
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Manchin
Capito	Graham	Markey
Cardin	Grassley	McConnell
Carper	Hassan	Menendez
Casey	Heinrich	Merkley
Collins	Hickenlooper	Murkowski

Murphy	Sanders	Warner
Murray	Schatz	Warnock
Ossoff	Schumer	Warren
Padilla	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Peters	Sinema	Wicker
Portman	Smith	Wyden
Reed	Stabenow	Young
Rosen	Tester	
Rounds	Van Hollen	

NAYS—35

Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Kennedy	Shelby
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Toomey
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fischer	Moran	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Romney
Lujan	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 657, Charles Esque Fleming, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Tim Kaine, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Charles Esque Fleming, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).